

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS  
OFFICE OF THE FIRST PRESIDENCY  
47 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE STREET, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84150-1000

February 23, 2007

To: General Authorities; Area Seventies; Stake, District, and Mission Presidents;  
Bishops and Branch Presidents

Dear Brethren:

Helping Young Women with the Transition into Womanhood; Monthly Joint  
Opening Exercises of Young Women and Relief Society

In our March 19, 2003, letter, we stated our desire that every young woman make the transition into Relief Society successfully. This continues to be a concern. This process begins well before a young woman turns 18, and it should continue after she enters Relief Society.

Parents, bishoprics, and Young Women and Relief Society leaders should work together to strengthen young women in this transition. The ward council meeting is an ideal setting to coordinate these efforts. On the reverse side are the suggestions previously provided to assist leaders in this important effort.

As an additional help, stake and mission presidents may authorize a monthly combined opening exercise of the ward or branch Relief Society and Young Women where facilities permit. Guidelines for these combined opening exercises have been added to the suggestions on the reverse side.

Sincerely your brethren,

The First Presidency

## SUGGESTIONS FOR HELPING YOUNG WOMEN WITH THE TRANSITION INTO WOMANHOOD

1. Encourage mothers to help their daughters gain an understanding of the value of Relief Society.
2. Assign a Relief Society counselor the specific responsibility of working with young adult women until they successfully make the transition into Relief Society.
3. Provide new members of the Relief Society with meaningful callings, visiting teaching, and compassionate service assignments.
4. Have the Young Women and Relief Society sisters meet together occasionally in Home, Family, and Personal Enrichment Meeting, with planning under the direction of both auxiliaries.
5. Emphasize provident living, homemaking, and personal application of gospel principles in Mutual activities.
6. Review the guidelines regarding transition into Relief Society in the *Church Handbook of Instructions, Book 2* (1998), pages 206 and 214.
7. When the stake or mission president authorizes a monthly combined opening exercise of a ward or branch Relief Society and Young Women, the following guidelines should be followed:
  - A. Opening exercises should be well organized and brief. They should create a spiritual atmosphere for the lessons that follow (see *Church Handbook of Instructions, Book 2*, 221).
  - B. Responsibility for planning and conducting the opening exercises should rotate between the leaders of Relief Society and Young Women.